MR. P. GOMATINAYAKOM PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): In view of the strong feeling that exists in the House, the Director of Agriculture will be asked by Government to make experiments in tobacco cultivation. If they produce promising results and if applicants for license thereafter come forward the question of framing rules under Section 31 of the Tobacco Regulation will be considered.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): Am I to understand that no rules have yet been framed?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKOM PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): I said so even at the very outset.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I am satisfied with the assurance given by the Excise Commissioner. I beg leave to withdraw that resolution.

The resolution was by leave of the House withdrawn.

PRESIDENT: The next resolution stands in the name of Mr. G. Raman Menon.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I do not wish to move the resolution.

The following resolution was not moved.

COMMITTEE FOR REVISION OF RYOTS ROADS RULES.

5. **MR. G. RAMAN MENON** (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): This Council recommends to the Government that a committee of officials and non-officials be appointed to revise the Ryots Roads Rules.

RESOLUTION *re* CONSTITUTION OF A BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR E. S. L. C. AND V. S. L. C. EXAMINATIONS.

MR. A. J. JOHN (*Vaikam*): Sir, I beg to move the following resolution;

"This Council recommends to the Government that fifty per cent of the members of the Examination Board for the English School Leaving, Vernacular School Leaving and the Vernacular Higher Examinations and the Chief Examiners should consist of Headmasters of English High Schools and that eighty per cent. of the Assistant Examiners should be taken from among the assistant masters in English High Schools or Headmasters of Vernacular High Schools and that fifty per cent. of the members of the Board and Examiners chosen from High Schools be taken from private institutions."

The English School Leaving Certificate Examination is not merely a test for admission to the College course, but one for admission to the public service and for technical studies. The Vernacular School Leaving and Higher Examinations also are tests for admission to public service. Under such circumstances the Board should not be dominated by College Professors as is the case at present.

The Headmasters and Assistant Masters of High Schools should not be placed in the position of mere workers whose work is to be judged by an outside authority. They should be taken as colleagues in the work of testing progress and results of the school work. At first Headmasters were practically excluded from the Board. Later on as a result

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. A. J. John.]

of the representations made at the Headmasters' Conferences and Sri Mulam Popular Assembly etc., the principle of associating Headmasters was accepted.

Now there are one or two Headmasters of High Schools on the Board. It is necessary that their number should be sufficient to make themselves and the rest to feel that they are not there by sufferance, but that they can give effect to their views in the Board.

Every year it is a complaint of teachers and pupils that questions are asked in one or more subjects which are unsuitable to the standard, the syllabus, and the condition of school education obtaining here, which could not have been the case if the Headmasters had a real voice in the Board. The presence of the Inspector of English Schools and the Inspectress is not sufficient for the purpose. The Inspector has always the attitude of the examiner and the critic and not that of the actual worker in the field.

The total number of Departmental High Schools in the State in 1101 was 20 and the total number of private English High Schools was 31. So it is necessary that at least 50 per cent must be taken from Private Institutions. With these words I move the resolution.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): What is the total number in the Board now?

MR. A. J. JOHN (*Vaikam*): I understand it is nine.

MR. C. P. TARAKAN (*Kunnatnad*): I second the resolution.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Mr. Tarakan is not in his seat, Sir. (*Laughter.*)

MR. C. P. TARAKAN (*Kunnatnad*): (*From his seat*) I second the resolution.

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Principal, College of Arts*): The resolution which has now been moved by Mr. John tries to put in a concrete form—in an exaggerated form if I may say so—the proposals which have been adumbrated in the Headmasters' Conference, the Popular Assembly and in this House itself in the form of interpellations. Looking through the official records of the representations made on this subject I notice that a considerable number of members on the other side who are now pressing the point in this Council, and also one member who is unhappily not now alive, have evinced considerable interest in this question by putting a number of interpellations containing suggestions for the reconstitution of the Examination Board. Mr. K. K. Thomas, Mr. C. P. Tarakan, Mr. M. N. Pillai, and Mr. Sivarama Panikkar are among those who have drawn attention to the need to reconstitute this Board. The late Mr. Hoogewerf, I think, on more than one occasion, made this a subject for forcible interpellation.

The whole question, Sir, is to some extent complicated by statements which are not strictly accurate and by the laying down of certain

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

general propositions which on educational grounds could not be allowed to pass unchallenged. Just now, for example, Mr. John in putting forward his concrete proposals suggested that the English School Leaving Certificate course is not to be regarded merely as an entrance test to the University, and that there is objection in having external examiners even if representation is given to persons having direct knowledge of the High School work and the work of the Vernacular School by making the Headmasters and their Assistants members of the Board in addition to the Inspecting officers. He said that there is not now proper representation in the Board and that the representation is not adqeuate since the Inspector views from the examiner's point of view and not from that of the teacher. These are, as I understood Mr. John, the main grounds on which he wants the reconstitution of the Board on the lines which he has suggested. But coming to his definite proposals I should like to say something of his generalisations. He says that for both the E. S. L. C. as well as the V. S. L. C. examination the representatives on the Board and the Chief Examiners should be only the Headmasters of *English* Schools and that as regards the Assistant Examiners they should be chosen only from those now teaching in *English* Schools or from the *Headmasters* in Vernacular Schools. I take it that the object of these proposals-thoug it has not been explained by Mr. John, are two-fold, namely to get increased representations, greater representation for the staff of the High Schools and for the graduates who are in educational service, than they now have on the panels of Chief Examiners and Assistant Examiners.

MR. A. J. JOHN (*Vaikam*): Is there a separate Board for the V. S. L. C. examinations now?

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Principal, College of Arts*): No, not since 1924.

As regards Vernacular Examinations one might *prima facie* assume that there might be persons who may not be graduates and who may still be competent enough to examine Vernacular answer papers. But Mr. John's proposal here is to give preponderant representation only to the *English* School teachers and to the Headmasters of Vernacular Schools. I believe all the Headmasters of Vernacular Schools are now graduates; and Mr. John, I think, puts a certain amount of premium upon persons who have received, what we may call, the degree in English education, people who are now in the Vernacular Department and who might be, in the interests of the Department, exchanged to the English Schools at any time.

Underlying the principle of this agitation, I take it is the view that it is not fair that the examination for the School Final course, whether in the Vernacular or in English, should be conducted by people who are not conversant with the teaching standard and with the examining standard. I do not think any argument is needed to convince the Department of the necessity to have, as examiners, persons who not only possess adequate knowledge of the *subject* of the examination but

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Rao Bahadur K. V. Rangaswami Aiyangar.]

who have also an adequate knowledge of the *standard* which ought to obtain. But, in regard to the qualifications of the Examiners, I think they should have something more than mere knowledge of the High School standard or of the Vernacular School standard. We have to remember that, in spite of the assurance or the assertion of Mr. John to the contrary is in practice merely an entrance test for the University course. Speaking on another resolution some time ago today, I pointed out the statistics which the Travancore University Committee obtained showed that the number of persons who passed the English School Leaving Certificate Examination and who do not continue their further studies in Colleges is negligible. Consequently whatever might have been the original object of the School Final course, at present the School Final Examination does not lead the successful candidates directly into official life or into any other employment or into technical studies or pursuits. We have therefore to remember that taking the School Final course *as it now stands* we have got to provide for examinations being conducted in a way which would be appreciated by the authorities who control entrance to the University. I may in this connection point out that the acceptance of the Secondary School Leaving Certificate as a valid substitute for Matriculation in the University was obtained by the consent of the University. The University of Madras has not abolished the Matriculation Examination ; and for the last two years there has been persistent agitation in the Madras University bodies for the rejection of the Secondary School Leaving Certificate Examination as it is at present, and for the revival of the Matriculation Examination ; and I may say in passing that the question has not been closed and that it is still under consideration. If the authorities of the Madras University eventually agree to start the Matriculation Examination again, then there will be no chance whatever of our School Leaving Certificate being acceptedby them as a sufficient test for entrance to the University. Of course, you may retain English School Leaving Certificate Examination as an additional test ; but for the University purposes it will not be recognised. Therefore, if the present agitation in the Madras University bodies eventuates in the revival of the old Matriculation then the University will appoint its own examiners for the Matriculation Examination, in the Board of which we are not likely to have 80 per cent representation of our High School teachers in the panel of Assistant Examiners or 50 per cent of our Headmasters in the panel of Chief Examiners that Mr. John asks for. I ask the House to pause for a moment and to consider what possibility there is for the kind of representation proposed by the mover of the resolution after that. I may also say in this connection that the Madras University, while accepting the Secondary School Leaving Certificates of the adjacent Native States as an equivalent of its own Matriculation, has imposed certain conditions to be fulfilled by these Native States. The substance of these conditions is that the revenue which each of these Native States gets as a result of these examinations should be made over to the University. Even the Madras Government has to pay the revenue, which it

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

gets as a result of the School Final Examination, to the Madras University; and as a result of this condition the Madras Government has been paying Rs. 30,000 every year to the Madras University. The Andhra University has also to be paid compensation for giving up its own Matriculation Examination. Similar compensations are being paid by the various Native States also. That is the position in regard to the E. S. L. C. Examination and its relation with the University.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): May I know whether the member has got any statistics showing the percentage of students who go up for the University course after having passed the School Final Examination?

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Principal, College of Arts*): May I crave your indulgence, Sir, to be allowed to pursue the argument in my own way? Questions which do not directly bear upon the argument which I am trying to elaborate tend to disturb the trend of my thought and later on I may also find that the whole of my time had been taken up by such questions.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar, I would even go a little further than you. Questions should not merely arise directly from the point of the discussion but they should be absolutely devoted to the purpose of elucidating information on the subject of the speech, and nothing more. I regret to say that too often questions are used—I am perfectly convinced that it is due to ignorance—as instruments in debate for defeating or demolishing the argument of the speaker or for placing him in an awkward position. That is not the object of questions. As I said before, questions should be directed to one purpose alone, and that is towards elucidation of information relating to the particular point at which the speaker is driving.

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Principal, College of Arts*): The other condition, Sir which the University of Madras has imposed while accepting the School Leaving Certificate as an equivalent to the old Matriculation is that the examination should be conducted in a way approved by the University. As the University is not conducting this examination directly it wants the assurance that it will be conducted in such a way as to be equivalent to the examination conducted by the University itself. That is one of the reasons why the arrangement has been made between the University of Madras and the Andhra University on the one hand and the Madras Government on the other by which the University Syndicates nominate certain number of members to be on the panel of examiners. The Bord of Examiners there consists of nine or ten people, out of which, by this arrangement, four are nominated by the University Syndicate. This is what the University does even in the Madras Presidency where there were over 30,000 candidates about two years ago, if I remember right,—and now the number ought to be larger. In that Board the representation of Headmasters and persons directly connected with teaching is not greater than the percentage

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Rao Bahadur K. V. Rangaswami Aiyangar.]

that we have in our own Examination Board here. I do not present that as the ideal. But, the income from Native States under this head is negligible while the number of candidates in Native States is considerable. The Syndicate has not hitherto turned its attention to impose conditions upon the Native States. If we proceed to manipulate the appointments to the Examining Board in various ways which may not appeal to the University, the University may either insist upon imposing conditions upon us determining the proportion of persons whom the University will appoint for our Examination Board, or in the alternative they may ask us to make our own arrangements for our Matriculation.

MR. A. J. JOHN (*Vaikam*) : Is there any order or rule about the constitution of the Examination Board now ?

RAO BAHADAUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Principal, College of Arts*) : None, in regard to Travancore. My point is this. Hitherto the question has not arisen. I believe the University has known about the constitution of the Board. But it has seen nothing against it. Our Board is not also constituted very differently from the Madras Board. The proposal that Mr. John is now making will create considerable difference between the constitution of the Madras Board and the constitution of our Board. It may then be possible, I think, for the Unversity to try and safeguard its interests by imposing conditions in order that they may have an equivalent for their Matriculation.

MR. A. J. JOHN (*Vaikam*) : May I know whether there are Head masters in the Madras Board?

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Principal, College of Arts.*) : Yes, I think there are two Headmasters who were appointed by the Syndicate for the first time about five years ago. As I stated already, the Syndicate was asked to appoint four persons ; of whom they appointed two Headmasters for the first time five years ago. Since then, I think, that practice has been continued. The appointment is done by the Syndicate. The Inspecting Officers are usually appointed by the Madras Government ; but not the Headmasters.

MR. C. P. THOMAS (*Nominated*) : May I know the number of teachers in the Madras Board ?

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Principal, College of Arts*) : I am not in a position to say that.

I merely want to mention these facts as grounds against the proposed arrangement by which the percentage is sought to be fixed arbitrarily.

Next I pass on to the principles underlying the resolution. As I submitted a while ago, anybody can clearly understand that in any properly constituted Examining Board the teaching element must be represented and that the knowledge of teaching standard is vital for the efficient working of the Board. At the same time, no Board is the worse for having certain external elements which will bring in the outsider's outlook and also the freshness which such outlook imports. I do not

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

know whether the members are aware that in the Madras University, for the last four or five years, question papers for Arts and Science Examinations are being set by people who either do not teach the subjects or who do not belong to the University at all. That is what is being done in the case of the Madras University examinations. It is only in the case of some of the professional examinations that it is not being done; and that is due to the paucity of outside examiners. If that be so, I ask, is the Madras University likely to approve of our making our Board a purely internal Board? The object in having external examiners is to get proper confidence in the deliberations of the Board. The Madras University is not therefore likely to have confidence in our internal Board; and to satisfy them there must be the external element in the Board. Certainly, there is no harm in having the internal element also represented. From the standpoint of the Headmasters and Teachers it is certainly desirable that they be enabled to get the advantage of this supplemental source of income which they would get if they are made Chief Examiners or Assistant Examiners. It has been found as a result of actual experience that the Headmasters and teachers who teach and who have actual knowledge of the teaching standard are the hardest of examiners. I have found this as Chairman of the Board and also as Chief Examiner. The same is the case with regard to the University examinations also. Examiners who teach the B. A. classes are far more lenient in valuing Intermediate papers than examiners from the second grade colleges or examiners who have had to teach only the Intermediate class. High School teachers and headmasters most often expect first class Intermediate answers from School Final students. I merely mention this as a point to be remembered while considering the question of disastrous failures in the examinations. Therefore if you constitute the Board entirely by persons who have only High School experience—

MR. C. P. THOMAS (*Nominated*): May I point out to Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar that the resolution does not want the Board to be constituted entirely by Headmasters and that it wants only fifty per cent of the Board to be Headmasters?

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Principal, College of Arts*): The Board consists of 9 persons. Fifty per cent of nine means I think, five; and there are three Inspectors also, officers who have absolutely no collegiate experience. There is then the Chairman. So if you provide for fifty per cent to be Headmasters, it is only a question of simple arithmetic for us to find out that there cannot be even one on the Board with collegiate experience. (*Laughter.*)

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil cum Devicolam*): Has Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar anything to say about the last portion of the resolution *i.e.*, with regard to the representation of private institutions.

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Principal, College of Arts*): I am coming to that.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Rao Bahadur K. V. Rangaswami Aiyangar.]

It must not be a weak Board and it must have representatives who are competent both by virtue of experience in teaching and their knowledge of subjects to serve on the Board. We want the best men in the Board irrespective of their being in private or public service. Personally, I can visualise a Board composed entirely of persons drawn from private institutions. If the private institutions happen to possess the persons most fitted to serve as examiners I think in justice to the candidates all of them should be selected from private institutions. On the other hand, if private institutions do not recognise or think that it is not wisdom to equip their staff in such a way as to have men stronger and more experienced than in departmental institutions, then it is not desirable to have them on the Board. It is not desirable to have arbitrary standards but if the object of the mover of the resolution is merely to draw attention to this *viz.*, to give adequate representation of High School teachers of experience on this Board as well as in all these subjects so as to bring them into touch with the examining system it is a valuable thing because teachers should know what standards they are to teach for. I have the utmost sympathy with them. But if you bring in an arithmetical percentage that 50% representation should be from High School Headmasters and that 80% representation should be for High school teachers and all that, I think you will find yourselves up against difficulties later on.

MR. A. J. JOHN (*Vaikam*): Is it not possible to raise the number of members in the Board?

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Principal, College of Arts*): A large board will not be able to finish with expedition the transactions of its business and will not have secrecy in transacting it. I may say for the purpose of setting 68 papers in History and Economics in the Madras Presidency there were only five examiners.

MR. C. P. THOMAS (*Nominated*): May I know from the member according to the present arrangement the Board of Examiners along with the Chief Examiners practically are in charge of the examinations?

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Principal College of Arts*): If I may be permitted to point out, Mr. Thomas does not visualise the distinction. When a chief examiner in Algebra is a member of the Board he will know all about the question paper on that subject. But in regard to secrecy the examinations of the English School Final certificates and Vernacular school leaving certificates there is not merely one paper but there are several papers. As regards this the present system is good enough and it tries to temper any angularities in the system by providing for consultation with people of ability. I think that system is an admirable one and it saves very many defects that we have here. I have exhausted all my points and as the time is over I have nothing more to add.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): Sir, at the outset I have to submit that I was not able to hear all that Mr. Rangaswamy

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Aiyangar spoke on the subject. From what I have gathered it appears to me he said that a large percentage of students who pass the School Final Examinations go for University course. My experience and my knowledge of students of the High Schools in the State has been the other way. I find not more than 30 per cent. of the students are going for College study.

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Principal, College of Arts*): Is it about the passed students or failed students that you are giving the percentage?

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): I am speaking of students who are eligible for College admission. Our country is too poor to admit all of them. Any way, this is only a test for entrance to Government service. It is also a test whether they have satisfactorily completed the course of instruction that has been imparted to them in the High Schools. For that purpose, it is better to have some headmasters and teachers also appointed on the board, to see, whether the students have satisfactorily completed their course. In the matter of percentage I do not agree with Mr. John. The resolution as it is drafted here does not admit widely of all men in the education department, say for example, teachers well-versed in Malayalam. Moreover the resolution allows scope only for examiners in English High Schools and Vernacular Schools as Chief Examiners. In my view other teachers also should be given a fair chance. What I say is, the School Final Examination is not merely a test to see whether they are fit for University course of study but also a test to see whether they have satisfactorily completed their course. Under these circumstances, I do believe, a certain percentage of headmasters also might be appointed in the Board. Similarly also with regard to Chief Examinerships, experienced headmasters as well as assistant teachers might also be taken as Chief Examiners and as for assistant examiners, teachers of every grade of School may be taken. This is my view. I do not agree with some of the points urged in the resolution of Mr. John.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know the justification of appointing Headmasters of English Schools on the Board for Vernacular School examiners?

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): I don't say anything of that sort. That is why, I say, I do not agree with all the aspects in the resolution. Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar was arguing—

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Mr. Panikkar seems to have lost the thread of the argument. It is time.

PRESIDENT: We will remain till quarter past five.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): I believe it was only for eliciting the information on a point that I interrupted Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar.

For these reasons I support the resolution on principle not in detail.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Perhaps Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai wants the House to rise at 5.

PRESIDENT: The Non-officials are entitled to have some minutes more.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): That is only in the case of budget, not for resolutions.

PRESIDENT: It is better that we finish the debate since the official member in charge of the resolution has replied and since there are no others to speak.

MR. A. J. JOHN (*Vaikam*): Since the official member accepted the principle of the resolution saying that adequate representation will be given to the High Schools, I withdraw the resolution.

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Principal, College of Arts*): I do not quite accept all Mr. John has said. I expressed merely what I personally hold *viz.*, that Government will always have in mind the proper representation of all interests including the teaching section. If this will satisfy Mr. John the resolution may be withdrawn.

MR. A. J. JOHN (*Vaikam*): I withdraw the resolution.

The resolution was by leave of the House withdrawn.

PRESIDENT: We will now adjourn and meet again at 11-30 A. M. on Monday.

The Council adjourned at 5-4 P. M.

P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly